

# State of the State different this year

NH 2-12-12

Gov. John Kasich delivered his second State of the State speech this past week, and it seemed he spoke from the heart.

But his remarks left a few things unclear, such as whether his interest to privatize the Ohio Turnpike will materialize and if drilling for gas and oil through hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, would be a major part of the state's economic development and energy plan.

Kasich said privatization of the turnpike would depend on whether the money is there to make it happen. In regard to fracking, he wants it to move forward as long as it doesn't degrade the environment, especially as some are concerned by recent earthquakes in the Youngstown area.

He also referred to Ohio as having the potential to be the "Saudi Arabia of coal," saying "clean it and burn it."

One thing I noticed was the governor seemed to have a more humbled approach for this speech than last year, when he was charged up after winning election. Perhaps that was, in part, from the successful referendum against Senate Bill 5.

Kasich also made an effort to at least extend an olive branch to Democrats, as he called on lawmakers and others—even former Ohio Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner, a Democrat.

Several legislators in the minority party have indicated they are skeptical of the governor's call for bipartisanship, so we'll have to see if that will truly happen in an election year.

Another topic Kasich brought to light was to put a halt to human trafficking. The governor said there are 1,000 chil-

dren, with an average age of 13, who are forced into prostitution, slave labor or worse.

The governor also used the forum to unveil his Governor's Courage Award to three winners and in the process he was nearly moved to tears detailing why each was selected.

## Lake GOP endorsements

The Lake County Republican Party recently endorsed a list of unopposed candidates for the March 6 primary.

Receiving endorsement were U.S. Rep. **Steven C. LaTourette** for 14th Congressional District; Justices **Terrence O'Donnell**, **Robert Cupp** and Judge **Sharon Kennedy** for Ohio Supreme Court; Judge **Diane V. Grendell** for 11th District Court of Appeals for the Feb. 10, 2013 term; **Colleen Mary O'Toole** for 11th District Court of Appeals for the Feb. 9, 2013, term; state Sen. **John Eklund** for Ohio 18th Senate District; state Rep. **Ron Young** for Ohio House of Representatives District 61; Painesville Councilwoman **Lori DiNallo** for Ohio House of Representatives District 60; Judges **Richard L. Collins Jr.** and **Vincent A. Culotta** for county Common Pleas Court; incumbent **Charles E. Coulson** for county prosecutor; **Emilee Teresczuk** for county Clerk of Courts; incumbent **Daniel A. Dunlap** for sheriff; **Jason Wuliger** for county recorder; incumbent **James R. Gills** for county Engineer; and incumbent Dr. **Lynn Smith** for county coroner.

## Candidate forum

Lake County Democratic Club Meet the Candidates Night at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Willoughby Eagles Hall.

## Fundies

■ Fundraiser for **Judy Moran**, candidate for Lake County commissioner, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday at Dino's Restaurant and Banquet Center in Willoughby. See **Kathy Russo**, **Traci Olic**.

■ Fundraiser for **John Rogers**, candidate for Lake County treasurer, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Holiday Inn Express LaMalfa Centre in Mentor. See **John Crocker**.

■ Fundraiser for **DiNallo**, 5 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23 at Bistro 70 in Painesville. See **Lori** or **Vince DiNallo**.

■ Annual Mardi Gras Party for **Daniel P. Troy**, candidate for Ohio House of Representatives District 60, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at Holiday Inn Express LaMalfa Centre in Mentor. See **Kip Molenaar**.

■ **Lorraine M. Fende**, candidate for Lake County treasurer, Families for Fende Spaghetti Dinner 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 27 at Dino's in Willoughby. See **Diane Fox**, **Nick Cindric**.

■ Leap Day event for 11th District Court of Appeals Judge **Mary Jane Trapp**, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 29 at Willoughby Hills Community Center. See **Kathy DiCristofaro**, **Mike Apicella**.

■ Campaign kickoff party for **Teresczuk**, 5 to 7:30 p.m. March 14 at Frank and Pauly's in Mentor. See **Brian Wollet**.

■ Spring Fever Celebration for **David Fiebig**, candidate for Lake County commissioner, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 21 at Willoughby Hills Community Center. See **Joyce Hribar Fiebig** or **Cindy Quinn-Hopkins**.

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